

HOUSE No. 597

By Representative Wolf of Cambridge and Senator Augustus, joint petition of Alice K. Wolf and others for legislation to provide for a comprehensive health education program in the public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Alice K. Wolf	Steven J. D'Amico
Edward M. Augustus, Jr.	Douglas W. Petersen
Patricia A. Haddad	John W. Scibak
Peter J. Koutoujian	Sarah K. Peake
Byron Rushing	Alice Hanlon Peisch
Lida E. Harkins	Barbara A. L'Italien
Ruth B. Balser	James B. Eldridge
Rachel Kaprielian	Denis E. Guyer
Jay R. Kaufman	Gloria L. Fox
Ronald Mariano	Anne M. Gobi
Frank I. Smizik	Michael J. Moran
David M. Torrisi	Rosemary Sandlin
Martin J. Walsh	Michael A. Costello
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	Elizabeth A. Malia
Cory Atkins	Allen J. McCarthy
Cleon H. Turner	Barry R. Finegold
Louis L. Kafka	Tom Sannicandro
J. James Marzilli, Jr.	Michael E. Festa
Kay Khan	Kevin G. Honan
Mary E. Grant	Peter V. Kocot
David Paul Linsky	William Smitty Pignatelli
Jennifer L. Flanagan	Thomas M. Stanley
Matthew C. Patrick	Robert Correia
Willie Mae Allen	Thomas P. Conroy
Martha M. Walz	Anthony J. Verga
Christine E. Canavan	Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	Benjamin Swan
Ellen Story	Stephen L. DiNatale
Pam Richardson	William Lantigua
John D. Keenan	Theodore C. Speliotis
Mark V. Falzone	Jennifer M. Callahan
Stephen Kulik	Linda Dorcena Forry
Denise Provost	Steven M. Walsh
William N. Brownsberger	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT PROVIDING HEALTH EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the word “languages”, in line 6, the words:—, health
4 education.

1 SECTION 2. Paragraph 3 of said Section 1D of said Chapter 69,
2 as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out the fourth
3 sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:—
4 The standards for health education shall be age-appropriate, med-
5 ically accurate and shall, at minimum, provide for instruction in the
6 following areas:— growth and physical development, physical
7 activity and fitness, nutrition, reproduction and sexuality, mental
8 health, family life, interpersonal relationships, disease prevention
9 and control, safety and injury prevention, tobacco, alcohol, and other
10 substance use and abuse prevention, consumer health and resource
11 management, ecological health, and community and public health.

1 SECTION 3. Paragraph 14 of said Section 1I of said Chapter 69,
2 as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following
3 clause:— (l) health education.

1 SECTION 4. The commissioner of education shall submit a report
2 on the provision of health education by school districts to the joint
3 committee on education, the clerk of the house and the clerk of the
4 senate no later than July 1, 2009. The report shall include the
5 following data for each public school in the Commonwealth: health
6 education requirements by grade level; health education curriculum
7 offered by grade level; the number of students who opt-out of any
8 portion of the health education curriculum involving human sexual
9 education or human sexuality issues; and approximate number of
10 hours spent on each of the 14 subject areas listed in Section 2 of this
11 bill by grade level.

1 SECTION 5. Consistent with the provisions of said Section 1E of
2 said Chapter 69, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Cur-
3 riculum Framework shall be construed as a guide for local school
4 districts in the development and selection of curriculum, textbooks
5 and instructional materials.

1 SECTION 6. Consistent with the provisions of Section 32A of
2 Chapter 71, every city, town, regional school district or vocational
3 school district implementing or maintaining curriculum which pri-
4 marily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues
5 shall adopt a policy ensuring parental/guardian notification. Such
6 policy shall afford parents or guardians the flexibility to exempt their
7 children from any portion of said curriculum through written notifi-
8 cation to the school principal. No child so exempted shall be penal-
9 ized by reason of such exemption.

1 SECTION 7. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require an
2 MCAS exam on health education.

1 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.